

20.
55. (New) A method of processing a photo identification document comprising:
using an inspection device, scanning the photo identification document using visible light
to produce scan data;
decoding steganographically-encoded information from the scan data; and
presenting data related to said decoded information to an operator of the inspection
device.

21.
56. (New) The method of claim 55 that includes:
encrypting information from the inspection device;
transmitting the encrypted information to a remote processor; and
wherein said presenting comprises presenting information returned from said remote
processor to the operator. --

REMARKS

After entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 18-24 and 33-56 are pending in the application.

Claim 23 has been amended to correct a matter of form. New claims 52-56 have been added to more fully protect applicant's inventive work.

Concerning the Statement of Reasons for Allowance of claims 18-24 and 33-51, applicant respectfully submits that the allowability of the claims does not hinge on isolated elements thereof. Rather, the claims are believed patentable because, when viewed as a whole, they define combinations that are neither anticipated by, nor obvious over, the prior art.

Submitted herewith is an Information Disclosure Statement.

Favorable consideration and passage to issuance are solicited.

Date: November 22, 2002


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Phone: 503-885-9699
FAX 503-885-9880

Respectfully submitted,

DIGIMARC CORPORATION

By _____

William Y. Conwell
Registration No. 31,943

Version with Markings to Show Changes MadeIn the Claims

Please amend claims as follows:

23. (Amended) The method [The photo identification document] of claim 22 in which the encoding is locally scaled in amplitude in accordance with visible features on the document.